

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Representatives Xavier Becerra (CA - 31) and Jim Ryun (KS -2), members with opposing views on war with Iraq, introduced a bi-partisan resolution today expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States called upon to engage in possible military action in Iraq. While debate among Members of Congress and Americans continues on the best approach towards disarming Iraq, the resolution proclaims that Congress' support for our military personnel remains unwavering.

"Congressman Ryun and I are united in our support and commitment to our men and women in uniform as the unfortunate possibility of war looms," Rep. Becerra said. "Our votes differed last October on the resolution to allow military force in Iraq and I continue to believe that diplomacy, not war, still remains the wisest option. Nevertheless, we stand together behind our brave and honorable service members, most of whom are oceans apart from their loved ones. This resolution appropriately salutes our troops who should know that our prayers and our thoughts are with them."

"In the face of increasing threats to our nation and our freedom, our military is once again answering our nation's call," Rep. Ryun said. "We want to demonstrate our thankfulness to these dedicated citizen soldiers."

The text of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas 250,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States are currently deployed in and near the Persian Gulf region;

Whereas these American military personnel have been separated from their families in support of a possible conflict in Iraq;

Whereas war against Iraq appears imminent; and

Whereas although the American people have differences in opinion over the policy of engagement in Iraq, the American people strongly support the Nation's military personnel, both active and reserve, who have been called into possible action: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives expresses its strong support for the members of the Armed Forces of the United States called upon to engage in possible action in Iraq.